

REMARKS

Applicants strongly believe that the original claims as filed were allowable over the prior art of record because of the Examiner's express comments that Modlin (USPN 6,480,475) "does not explicitly teach the layout of a first processor to comprise the functionality of performing time to frequency conversion, equalization and decoding of the received data, and the second processor to comprise of the functionality of error correction". Applicants also respectfully assert that Modlin does not even suggest such a partitioning. Also, such a partitioning would not be obvious to one of average skill in the art. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion that "using two processors instead of one would divide the responsibilities between the two processors and thus enhance the reliability", such a division of responsibilities could catastrophically damage the reliability of a DSL modem and associated connection. This is because the host processor may be overloaded by other applications and may be unable to handle the DSL functionality in as timely a manner as required for the DSL modem to function as required. This may be catastrophic in some applications. (See Specification, page 3, line 25 to page 5, line 29.) Video conferencing and real time music, among others, are two such examples.

However, in order to move prosecution of this application to resolution, Applicants have amended independent claims 13 and 20 to clarify that a dynamic reassignment can be used wherein at least one step or operation performed by one of the first and second processors can be dynamically reassigned to a different one of the first and second processors. This dynamic reassignment, if properly used, can prevent catastrophic damage to the reliability of a DSL modem and associated connection.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully solicited. Please contact me if there are any issues regarding this communication or the current Application.

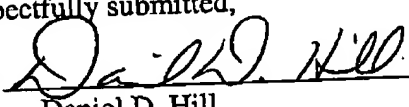
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